

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 L-03 OIC-02 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12
NEA-10 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 /103 R

DRAFTED BY IO/LAB:SWHILDEN:CB
APPROVED BY IO:DRTOUSSAINT
IO/LAB:APALMER
S/IL:DGOOD
IO/ML:PWKRIEBEL
DOL:AVERY/JQUACKENBUSH
-----151810Z 056842 /65
P R 151731Z JAN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 010111

KINSHASA FOR HOROWITZ

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, ILO

SUBJECT: PREPARATIONS FOR FEBRUARY 1977 MEETING OF
ILO GB

REF: A)STATE 8752

WE PROPOSE SEND FOLLOWING CABLE NEXT WEEK TO GB
MEMBER COUNTRY POSTS (INCLUDING WORKER AND EMPLOYER
MEMBERS) REQUESTING DEMARCHES RE STRUCTURE AND
ARTICLE 17. YOUR CLEARANCE AND COMMENTS INVITED,
(INCLUDING WHETHER DEMARCHES ADVISABLE TO POSTS ON
YOUR CURRENT ITINERARY). BEGIN FYI: DALE GOOD
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RAISES QUESTION OF TIMING AND WHETHER TO PROCEED
BEFORE CONCLUDING NEGOTIATIONS WITH EUROPEANS ON
STRUCTURE. END FYI.

BEGIN TEXT: SUMMARY: POSTS ARE ASKED TO ASSIST
DEPARTMENT IN PREPARING FOR MEETING (FEBRUARY 14-
MARCH 4) OF THE ILO GOVERNING BODY (GB). MAJOR

ISSUES LIKELY TO BE (A)CONTINUATION OF ARAB ATTEMPTS TO CONDEMN ISRAEL FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES; (B)G-77 EFFORTS TO ALTER GB STRUCTURE TO EXPAND G-77 REPRESENTATION;

AND (C)U.S. PROPOSALS TO DE-POLITICIZE ILO BY AMENDING ARTICLE 17 STANDING ORDERS TO SCREEN OUT IRRELEVANT RESOLUTIONS. GUIDANCE ON ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUE WILL BE SUBJECT OF SEPTTEL AT LATER DATE.

1. STRUCTURE: (A)BACKGROUND: ILO GB PRESENTLY COMPRISES 28 GOVERNMENT DELEGATES, 14 WORKER AND 14 EMPLOYER FOR TOTAL OF 56 TITULAR MEMBERS, PLUS AN EQUAL NUMBER OF DEPUTY (NON-VOTING) MEMBERS, FOR A GRAND TOTAL OF 112 (TOTAL ILO MEMBERSHIP 132). OF THE 28 GOVERNMENT DELEGATE SEATS, 10 ARE ASSIGNED BY ARTICLE 7 OF THE ILO CONSTITUTION TO THE 10 NATIONS OF CHIEF INDUSTRIAL IMPORTANCE (AS DETERMINED BY GNP, CONTRIBUTION TO ILO, AND POPULATION). THESE TEN STATES ARE CANADA, FRANCE, FRG, INDIA, ITALY, JAPAN, U.S., UK, USSR AND PRC (PRC IS IN ARREARS WITH RESPECT TO ITS DUES, CANNOT VOTE AND HAS NEVER EXERCISED RIGHTS OF MEMBERSHIP). VARIOUS PROPOSALS MADE IN ILO WORKING PARTY ON STRUCTURE (WPS) HAVE BEEN ADVANCED BY G-77 AND OTHERS WHICH SEEK TO EXPAND G-77 REPRESENTATION ON GB BY ABOLISHING 10 NON-ELECTIVE

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SEATS. "BIG TEN" STATES ON WPS HAVE BEEN ASSURED BY G-77 "SPOKESPERSONS" THAT G-77 PREPARED TO WORK OUT SOME UNSPECIFIED REGIONAL ARRANGEMENT WHICH WOULD GUARANTEE ELECTION OF BIG TEN TO SEATS ON GB.

(B)REQUEST FOR DEMARCHE: POSTS ARE REQUESTED AT THEIR DISCRETION TO APPROACH FONOFF TO INFORM THEM THAT USG CANNOT AGREE TO ANY FORMAL MODIFICATION IN COMPOSITION OR INCREASE IN SIZE OF ILO GB AND TO REQUEST THEIR SUPPORT FOR USG POSITION. POST SHOULD TELL FONOFF THAT STRUCTURE ISSUE, WHILE NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED IN U.S. LETTER OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW FROM ILO, IS RELEVANT TO CONCERNS BEHIND OUR DECISION TO WITHDRAW, SINCE WE BELIEVE STRUCTURAL ALTERATIONS SOUGHT BY G-77 AND OTHERS WOULD, IF ADOPTED, (A)DILUTE INDUSTRIALIZED MARKET-ECONOMY COUNTRY (IMEC) STRENGTH IN GB, (B)INCREASE EROSION OF TRIPARTISM (THROUGH EFFECT ON WORKER AND EMPLOYER GROUPS) AND (C)INCREASE POLITICIZATION BY ADDING MORE

THIRD WORLD REPRESENTATION. U.S. BELIEVES THAT INTRODUCING FORMAL GEOGRAPHICAL/REGIONAL CRITERIA INTO CHOICE OF GB GOVERNMENT MEMBERS WOULD INEVITABLY LEAD TO NEUTRALIZING THE IMPACT OF TRIPARTISM THROUGH SUBSEQUENT EFFORT TO IMPOSE SAME CRITERIA FOR CHOOSING WORKER/EMPLOYER MEMBERS OF GB, THUS RESTRICTING

PRESENT FREEDOM OF THESE GROUPS TO ELECT THEIR GB REPS AUTONOMOUSLY. THE U.S. ALSO BELIEVES THAT (A)10 NON-ELECTIVE SEATS ON GB ESSENTIAL TO GUARANTEE LARGEST CONTRIBUTORS A CONTINUING ROLE IN GB DELIBERATIONS, AND (B)FURTHER INCREASES IN PRESENT 112 MEMBER GB WOULD MAKE THAT BODY COMPLETELY UNWTELE4LY.

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2. ARTICLE 17: (A)BACKGROUND: ONE OF FOUR REASONS PROMPTING USG LETTER OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW FROM ILO IS ITS INCREASING POLITICIZATION, I.E. GROWING AMOUNT OF ILO TIME AND ENERGY SPENT ON IRRELEVANT, UNSUBSTANTIATED AND POLEMICAL RESOLUTIONS UNRELATED TO GOALS OF ILO AS SET FORTH IN ITS CONSTITUTION. USG PROPOSES AMENDING ARTICLE 17 OF STANDING ORDERS TO CREATE SCREENING COMMITTEE WHICH WOULD PREVENT SUCH RESOLUTIONS FROM REACHING FLOOR IN FIRST PLACE. AT NOVEMBER GB, SUCCESSFUL EFFORT WAS MADE -- WHICH USG SUPPORTED -- TO REFER THIS MATTER TO STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE OF GB FOR CONSIDERATION AT FEBRUARY 77 GB SESSION.

(B)REQUEST FOR DEMARCHE: POSTS ARE REQUESTED AT THEIR DISCRETION (1)TO INFORM HOST GOVERNMENT THAT USG LOOKS UPON CREATION OF SCREENING PROCEDURE AS IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD OBJECTIVE SHARED BY MANY ILO MEMBERS, INCLUDING U.S. I.E. TO ENSURE ILO FOCUSES ATTENTION ON ISSUES/PROGRAMS RELATED TO GOALS, PURPOSES AND SPECIALIZED MANDATE OF ORGANIZATION; AND (2)TO REQUEST HOST GOVERNMENT SUPPORT OF EFFORTS TO AMEND ARTICLE 17 TO CREATE SUCH PROCEDURE. CREATION OF SCREENING PROCEDURE WOULD ALLEVIATE ONE OF MAJOR CAUSES OF USG DISAFFECTION WITH ILO. POSTS SHOULD STRESS THIS AMENDMENT WOULD PREVENT EMBARRASSING SITUATIONS WHICH HAVE CONFRONTED MANY ILO MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN ASKED TO SUPPORT HIGHLY POLITICAL RESOLUTIONS FOR SAKE OF THIRD WORLD SOLIDARITY, EVEN WHEN MANY MEMBERS DID NOT WISH TO DO SO.

3. DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS IT IMPORTANT THAT DEMARCHES
BE MADE TO FONOFF'S IN ADDITION TO OTHER HOST
GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONSIDERED EFFECTIVE BY
POSTS.

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4. FOR PARIS, BONN, LONDON, ROME, OTTAWA, BRUSSELS,
TOKYO: THIS SUPPLEMENTS REQUEST FOR DEMARCHES REFTEL A.

5. WE BELIEVE MOST EFFECTIVE TIME FOR DEMARCHES
WOULD BE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, PREFERABLY DURING
LAST WEEK OF JANUARY THOUGH LEAVE THIS TO POST'S
DISCRETION. PLEASE ADVISE DEPARTMENT WHEN DEMARCHE
DELIVERED AND RESPONSE. END TEXT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: SWHILDEN:CB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: STATE
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